

## TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Education Committee

SB 1095; An Act Concerning School Resource Officers

**IN FAVOR OF SB 1095**



**February 28, 2023**

Dear Co-Chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey and the entire Education Committee:

My name is Destiny Vasquez and I am a Justice Advisor at the [Connecticut Justice Alliance](#) (CTJA). I'm writing this testimony to communicate my strong support for S.B. 1095, an act concerning School Resource Officers, and to make a clear understanding that this bill should also include a phased out approach to the removal of School Resource Officers.

The CTJA is a statewide youth-adult partnership working to end the criminalization of youth. The Alliance includes Justice Staff, Justice Advisors, and Steering Committee members, which include lawyers, researchers, clinicians, and social workers, who work across issues areas such as mental/behavioral health, family advocacy, substance abuse, youth services, LGBTQ+ issues, legal representation, education, community and residential services, and public policy reform.

I grew up in the city of New Haven. Although my experience with school resource officers has been positive, I do in fact know people who have had their own personal experience with school resources officers that wasn't the same. I was once told by a young individual that most of the times they were arrested growing up was by school resource officers.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that is centered on the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and restoration. Thank you for your time.

**In Community,**  
**Destiny V.**